

WI-511
Merrill W. Abbott House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1901

The two-and-one-half story Victorian house that stands on the southeast corner of Camden and Maryland avenues follows a conventional pattern for many dwellings erected around the turn of the twentieth century. Typical of many examples of the style, a two-story pavilion projects forward of the main block, and spindle decoration enriches a semi-octagonal, first floor bay. Extending from the northeast corner is a plain two-story, one-bay pavilion. In between the two pavilions is a single-story Tuscan columned porch.

Listed as a "carpenter" in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Merrill W. Abbott most likely built this house for himself and his family. Included in the directory listed with Merrill was his wife, Lillie, and daughter Edith, a student. Merrill family occupation of the house lasted until 1945, when the house and lot were sold to John C. and Irma B. Mason, who turned around and sold it to Walter H. and Otie W. McAllen a little over two months later. The McAllen ownership continued for twenty years, until Otie McAllen, a widow, transferred title to Sigmund and Beverly Muskat. The current owners acquired the property in 1976.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-511

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Merrill W. Abbott House

other

2. Location

street and number 609 Camden Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles T. and Catherine D. Dryden

street and number 609 Camden Avenue telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 111, P. 295

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 861 folio 331

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ **Contributing Resource in Local Historic District**
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
district	public	agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	1
structure	both	defense	
site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
object		education	
		funerary	1
		government	
		health care	
		industry	
		landscape	
		recreation/culture	
		religion	
		social	
		transportation	
		work in progress	
		unknown	
		vacant/not in use	
		other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

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Name Merrill W. Abbott House
Continuation Sheet

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7. Description

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
<u>x</u>	good	ruins
	fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Merrill W. Abbott house is located on the southeast corner of Maryland and Camden avenues with an address of 609 Camden Avenue. The house faces west with the hip roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1901, the two-and-a-half story, asymmetrical plan Victorian house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched hip roof, with several gable roof pavilions extending from it, is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with an uneven ell-shaped front. Centrally located in the main block, the front entrance is sheltered by a Tuscan columned front porch that wraps around the north end. The partially glazed front door includes colored glass panes. The adjacent bay to the north is filled with a two-over-two sash window. Flanking the entrance on the south is a projecting two-story pavilion with a three-sided front defining the first story. Each face of the semi-octagonal bay is pierced by a two-over-two sash window. The second story of the pavilion has square sides and is pierced by a paired multipane window. Enriching the soffit at each corner of the pavilion is a spindle decoration. Fixed in the gable end is a six-over-one sash window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and exposed rafter tails. Rising through the center of the house are single flue brick stacks topped by corbelled caps.

The south side of the house is marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that light the first and second floors, and the edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and exposed rafter tails.

The north side is defined by a projecting two-story, one-bay, gable-roofed pavilion pierced by single two-over-two sash windows on each floor.

The rear wall is an asymmetrical elevation also with a two story shed roofed section fixed in the corner. A single-story back porch with turned posts and a shed roof are attached to the southeast corner of the main block.

The interior was not seen.

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts	
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy	
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion	
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science	
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history	
	community planning		maritime history	transportation	
	conservation		military	other:	
Significance dates		Architect			
Specific dates		Builder			

1 Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The two-and-a-half story Victorian house that stands on the southeast corner of Camden and Maryland avenues follows a conventional pattern for many Victorian dwellings erected around the turn of the twentieth century. Typical of the style, a two-story pavilion projects forward of the main block, and spindle decoration enriches the semi-octagonal first floor bay. Extending from the northeast corner is a plain two-story one-bay pavilion. In between the two extensions of the main block is a single-story Tuscan columned porch.

Listed as a “carpenter” in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Merrill W. Abbott most likely built this house for himself and his family.¹ Included in the directory listing with Merrill was his wife, Lille, and daughter Edith, a student. Merrill family occupation of the house lasted until 1945 when the house and lot were sold to John C. and Irma B. Mason,² who

¹ Salisbury City Directory, 1907, published by Waldo Books, 1998, p. 1

² Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 269/428, 28 February 1945.

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turned around and sold it to Walter H. and Otie W. McAllen a little over two months later.³ The McAllen ownership continued twenty years, until Otie McAllen, a widow, transferred title to Sigmund and Beverly Muskat.⁴ The current owners acquired the house and lot in 1976.⁵

³ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 270/74, 4 May 1945.

⁴ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 620/218, 15 October 1965.

⁵ Wicomico County Land Record, 861/331, 1 September 1976.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-511

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic boundary coincides with the metes and bounds of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

date 9/27/2000

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

phone 410-651-1094

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

WI-511
Merrill W. Abbott House
609 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 111, Parcel 295

861/331 Sigmund M. Muskat and Beverly J. Muskat

to

9/1/1976 Charles T. Dryden and Catherine D. Dryden
55' along Camden Avenue
96' along Maryland Avenue

JWTS 620/218 Otie W. McAllen, widow

to

10/15/1965 Sigmund M. Muskat and Beverly J. Muskat

JWTS 270/74 John C. Mason and Irma B. Mason

to

5/4/1945 Walter H. McAllen and Otie W. McAllen

JWTS 269/428 Maude A. Culver and L. Gordy Culver

to

2/28/1945 John C. Mason and Irma B. Mason

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Page 2

Merrill W. Abbott House
609 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Will Book
MNN 1/515

Last Will and Testament of Merrill M. Abbott
to, daughter

Written
10/13/1929
Proved
3/10/1934

Edith G. Abbott
(devised by the said Edith G. Abbott by her Last Will and
Testament, JAH 2/251, to her brother Thomas W. H. Abbott
and her sister Maude A. Culver)

JTT 29/209

Charles G. Waters

to

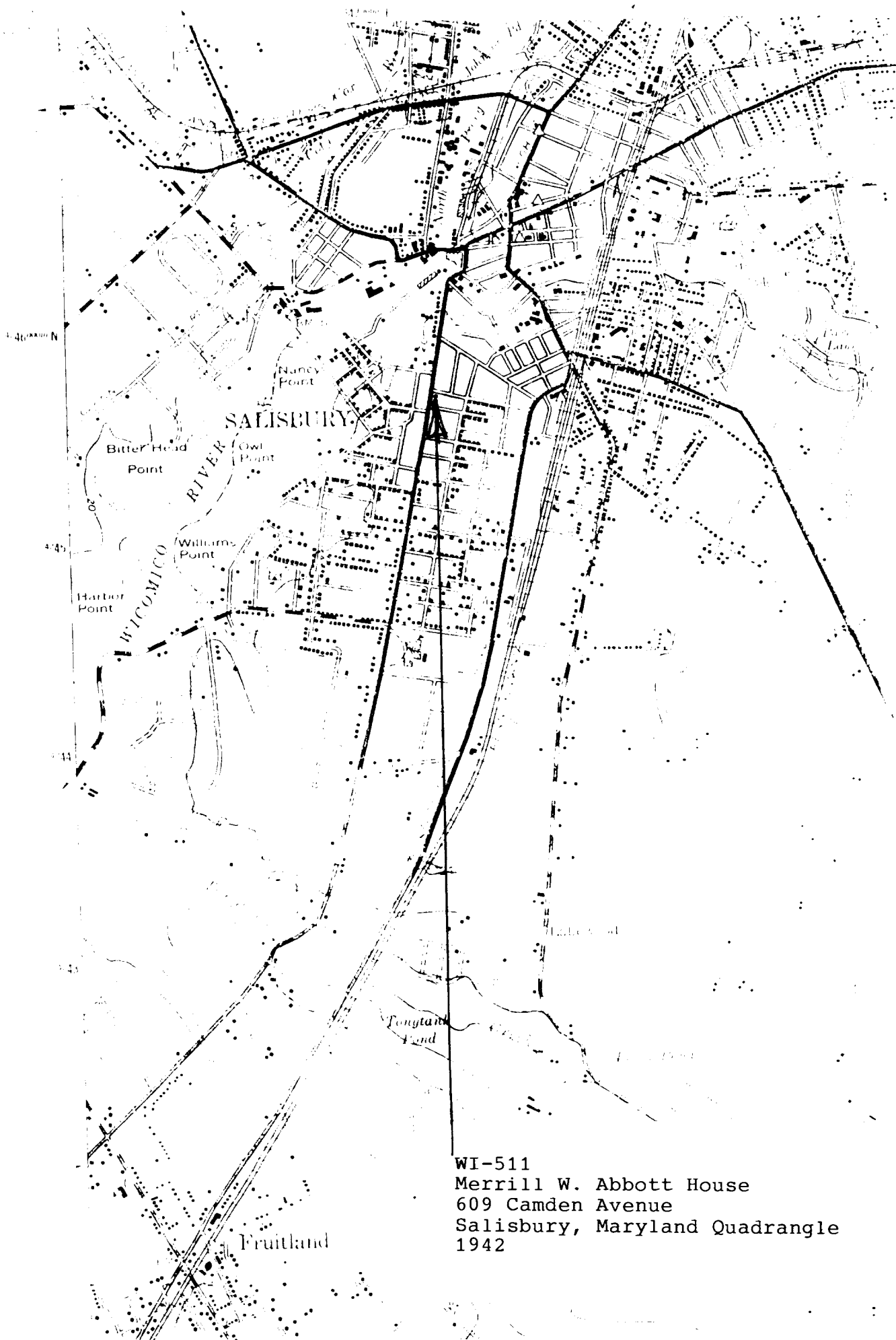
4/19/1901

Merrill W. Abbott
\$1,500 18 poles by 18 poles (297' by 297')

1907 Salisbury, Maryland City Directory

Merrill Abbott, Carpenter, 412 Camden Avenue
Lillie Abbott
Edith Abbott, Student

John Abbott, 204 Maryland Avenue
Lizzie Abbott
Lillie Abbott, dressmaking
Cora Abbott, shirt factory



WI-511
 Merrill W. Abbott House
 609 Camden Avenue
 Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942



W-501

MERKEL W. August Hinge

SALISBURY, Michigan Co. 1880

West of 12th St

9/20, P.M. Found 1st specimen

W 1/2 5400

1 of 3



W1-511

Wendy M. Adams, House
Secretary, Newport, RI, USA

Wendy M. Adams

9/30, Penn. Township, Pennsylvania
Newport, RI, USA

2 or 3



W1-511

Went to Mr. Anderson House

Saturday, November 8, 1900.

Northward - elevation on

1/00, P.M. Time passed at 1/00

1/00, P.M. 5:15 P.M.

3 or 3